

Today's News - Tuesday, September 1, 2015

- ANN feature: Q&A with Boddewyn and Gaynor re: their firm's new name, other changes they've made, and the effect on operations and future plans.
- Kiser brings us eyefuls of DS+R's Broad museum in Los Angeles, dubbed "the veil and the vault."
- Hawthorne has a few reservations about the Broad: though it's "efficiently designed" and is "wrapped in an eye-catching, bone-white honeycomb," it's "around the edges that the museum proves most compelling and full of personality," and shows "a verve that is elsewhere compromised, tamped down or reined in." - Hadid, in an effort to win back the Tokyo Olympic stadium project, releases a video and a 91-page report re: what ZHA "believes went wrong with the contractor procurement process, and the risk of the government starting the project from scratch."
- Stott minces no words about why Hadid "doesn't deserve the Tokyo stadium commission": perhaps "she has wasted time producing a 23-minute video which we have wasted our time watching" (never mind the "bizarre and vindictive attack" on Populous's London 2012 Olympic stadium).
- Anderton, on a brighter Olympic note, has a great Q&A with Prezja re: whether L.A. could "revive its 1984 pop-up success" in its bid for the 2024 Olympics - he says yes.
- Barry and Saylor say it's time for the architecture community to step up to the plate when it comes to labor issues in the Gulf and beyond: "That there has not been a far greater outcry is disturbing - the issue with treating laborers as though they are a plentiful raw material is that they are not a raw material. Instead, they are human beings."
- Leigh explains why "the judges got it wrong" in the shortlist for D.C.'s World War I Memorial: "The only submissions that effectively addressed the site, set an appropriate tone for the avenue, and provided an appropriate commemorative form were classical" (and the only one that made the cut wasn't the best).
- Saffron finds Camden, NJ's deal to win Subaru's HQ insufferable: for a huge tax break, the city will end up with "a lonely island in an asphalt sea of parking spaces - Camden deserves more than an inaccessible, climate-killing suburban office park."
- Welton weighs in on "the latest imbroglio between politicians and preservationists" in Venice involving the mayor postponing an exhibition of photographs of cruise ships that "grotesquely dwarf the architecture" of Venetian landmarks, and revolving around plans to dredge "the city's canals to accommodate even more" (never mind "unleashing deadly toxins into the lagoon").
- Landscape architects have a few questions and qualms about Gehry's LA River master plan: "We ask for a transparent process with plenty of outreach."
- Barragan, meanwhile, lays out 8 new things newly learned about Gehry's big LA River plans: "a fair amount of work has been done" that could result in a "linear Central Park" (though "there aren't any pretty final pictures yet").
- Sydney's The Goods Line opens (the bad news: though promised, "there are no immediate plans" to start work on the southern section).
- Tan says The Goods Line is "no High Line, but a welcome green corridor for Sydney."
- Two depressing surveys out of the U.K.: "RIBA reports client frustrations over divide between practices with vision and those that can deliver" (it's "a rare breed" that can do both) + "Homophobia remains rife in construction industry" (how sad).
- To top off a particularly grinchy news day, take a (rather humorous) gander at the Carbuncle Cup 2015 shortlist "in the running for architecture's wooden spoon": "a gratuitous glass gargoyle graffitied onto the skyline," a "dog's breakfast of a tower" - and more!
- To end this grouchy news day on a high note: a most interesting mix of 12 teams will tackle Detroit for the 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale U.S. Pavilion's "The Architectural Imagination."

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ANN Feature: New Name and New Directions: Boddewyn Gaynor Architects, DPC: Q&A with the firm's principals about the changes they've made, and how they affect the firm's operations and future plans. [images] - ArchNewsNow.com

The Broad: Diller Scofidio + Renfro: Dubbed "the veil and the vault," the museum's design merges the two key programs of the building: public exhibition space and the storage that will support the Broad Art Foundation's extensive lending activities. By Kirsten Kiser -- Gensler [images] - ArcSpace

The new Broad museum, though efficiently designed, really only comes alive on the periphery: An efficient three-story box of exhibition and archive space wrapped in an eye-catching, bone-white honeycomb...it's not in the center but around the edges...that the museum proves most compelling and full of personality...show a verve that is elsewhere compromised, tamped down or reined in... By Christopher Hawthorne -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Walter Hood [images] - Los Angeles Times

Zaha Hadid Architects Releases Presentation In Push to Reinstate Scrapped Tokyo Stadium Designs: ...published a 23-minute video and...91-page report defending its design for the New National Stadium...presentation, produced with Arup Sports, outlines its design conception and rationale...what it believes went wrong with the contractor procurement process, and the risk of the government starting the project from scratch...firm is willing to alter its initial designs... [video] - Architect Magazine

Zaha Hadid Doesn't Deserve the Tokyo Stadium Commission, and Here's Why: ...should this campaign be taken seriously? ...bizarre and vindictive attack...on Populous' design for the London 2012 Olympic Stadium...comes across as a petty attack...Hadid either has the power and the influence to change political and market situations, in which case it seems reasonable for her to attempt to both save lives and take the Tokyo commission back, or she doesn't, in which case she has wasted time producing a 23-minute video which we have wasted our time watching. Which is it? By Rory Stott - ArchDaily

DnA/Frances Anderton: Paul Prezja on Whether a Pop-Up Olympics Could Work Again: LA is set to make a bid for the 2024 Olympics. Could it revive its 1984 pop-up success or use the games as a catalyst for ambitious planning? Do you think this kind of makeshift, pop-up approach could work the next time around? "Yes I do..." -- Deborah Sussman/Sussman/Prezja; Jon Jerde [images] - KCRW (Los Angeles)

Comment> Judith Barry and Ken Saylor discuss labor issues in the Gulf and beyond: It is time for the architecture community to stand with artists and activists to improve the labor conditions...That there has not been a far greater outcry...is disturbing...in many developing countries people are often the most lucrative export...But the issue with treating laborers as though they are a plentiful raw material is that they are not a raw material. Instead, they are human beings. - The Architect's Newspaper

Washington's World War I Memorial: The Judges Got It Wrong: The only submissions that effectively addressed the site, set an appropriate tone for the avenue, and provided an appropriate commemorative form were classical. By Catesby Leigh -- Roy Lewis; M. Paul Friedberg; Devin Kimmel; Richard Cameron/Michael Djordjevtich; Michael Imber/Sabin Howard; James McCrery/Chas Fagan - National Review

It's what makes Subaru a tax dodge: ...new home...will be a lonely island in an asphalt sea of parking spaces...pitching Gateway District as Camden's answer to the Navy Yard...it's a poor-man's version, with...no aspiration for true urbanity...economic policy that moves companies into distressed places...can spur revival. But only if it's hitched to an urban development policy...For \$118 million, Camden deserves more than an inaccessible, climate-killing suburban office park. By Inga Saffron -- Granum AV [images] - Philadelphia Inquirer

Dallas Police and Fire Pension System board votes to stop looking for fix to Museum Tower glare: More than three years after the Nasher Sculpture Center first complained that it was blinded by the sunlight...owners have decided they are no longer responsible for fixing the glaring issue....voted, almost unanimously, to wash its hands of the glare issue..."determined that all options under consideration were too costly to implement or would devalue the system's investment"...Now it's not clear what will happen - Dallas Morning News

In Venice, Politics vs. Photos: ...the latest imbroglio between politicians and preservationists there seems...ham-handed...At issue is an exhibition, postponed by the mayor, of photographs depicting cruise ships that grotesquely dwarf the architecture of St. Mark's Square and other Venetian landmarks. More than 500 ships dock there annually...And there's talk of dredging the city's canals to accommodate even more...it's "not a good idea to insult the people who fill your coffers with euro"...Not to mention unleashing deadly toxins into your lagoon. By J. Michael Welton -- JoAnn Locktov; Gianni Berengo Gardin [images]- Huffington Post

Landscape Architects Question New Frank Gehry-led Los Angeles River Masterplan: In addition to threatening Congressional approval of the Corps' billion-dollar-plus Alternative 20 plan due to confusion with this new, unclear planning effort, there is concern...We ask for a transparent process with plenty of outreach to stakeholders and the community to ensure the foundation of previously-approved work, which reflect the public's needs, is firmly in place. By Duane Border/Duane Border Design/ASLA Southern California Chapter - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

8 New Things We Learned About Frank Gehry's Big Plans For Making Over the LA River: ...while this initial part of the huge undertaking was mostly for research ("We don't have a design yet. There aren't any pretty final pictures yet"...), a fair amount of work has been done...aim is to create one "continuous experience"...possibly something like a "linear Central Park"... By Bianca Barragan -- Tensho Takemori/Anand Devarajan/Gehry Partners - Curbed Los Angeles

Sydney's The Goods Line opens: The project, which has been widely compared with New York's High Line, turns a former rail line into a lively pedestrian corridor...Running alongside the new Dr Chau Chak Wing building for UTS designed by Frank Gehry, The Goods Line also has a number of study pods for tertiary students. -- Aspect Studios; CHROFI [images]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

The Goods Line: it's no High Line, but a welcome green corridor for Sydney: While [it] cannot rival its more famous New York counterpart...both projects belong to a worldwide movement of urban renewal and revitalisation...Further assessments will seal the fate of a proposed extension through to Redfern. By Monica Tan -- John Choi/Chrofi architects; Sacha Coles/Aspect Studios [images] - Guardian (UK)

Clients 'forced to replace concept architects because they lose interest': RIBA reports client frustrations over divide between practices with vision and those that can deliver: Architects who can design a building all the way from concept to delivery are such a rare breed...Many clients said they would rather hire only one firm but considered it too risky to leave the concept architect in charge of the technical aspects of delivery. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Survey results: Homophobia remains rife in construction industry: Exclusive: A new pan-industry survey of the experiences of lesbian, gay and bisexual employees reveals an 'outdated' approach to diversity..."While racism and to a degree sexism are now seen as unacceptable, homophobia is still considered 'harmless' banter"...LGBT issues is one area where people feel comfortable poking fun." By Rakesh Ramchurn - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Carbuncle Cup 2015 shortlist unveiled: Six of Britain's worst buildings in the running for architecture's wooden spoon: ...a gratuitous glass gargoyle graffitied onto the skyline...dog's breakfast of a tower...fag butt... By Thomas Lane, Ike Ijeh, Elizabeth Hopkirk -- Rafael Vinoly; Carey Jones Chapmantolcher; John Simpson Architects; Robert Kilgour Architects; Fluid Design; Keith Williams Architects [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

Architects for the 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale U.S. Pavilion Announced: 12 participating teams...will design projects for sites in Detroit, which will later be used to produce..."The Architectural Imagination." -- (n) Office; BairBalliet; Greg Lynn FORM; Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects; Marshall Brown Projects; MOS Architects; Pita & Bloom; Present Future; Preston Scott Cohen; SAA/Stam Allen Architect; T+E+A+M; Zago Architecture - Architect Magazine

ANN Feature: Swimming with the Fishies: SeaGlass Carousel: David Dunlap was right: the new carousel in Lower Manhattan's Battery Park is like no other you've ever ridden...oooh's and aaah's will ensue. By Kristen Richards -- WXY architecture + urban design [images] - ArchNewsNow.com

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